

Serial No.: 09/656,074
Docket No.: 10655.9200

REMARKS

Applicants reply to the Office Action dated October 24, 2005, of which this Reply is filed with a request for a two-month extension of time. Applicants authorize and respectfully request that any fees due be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-2814. Claims 1-30 were pending in the application and the Examiner rejects claims 1-24 and objects claims 25-28. The Examiner did not comment on claims 29-30. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the Examiner interviews with Applicants' counsel on January 23, 2005 and again on March 7, 2005 to clarify the rejections and suggest changes to the claim language. Applicants have amended the claims accordingly.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 8-9, 13-16, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Atkinson, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,892,904 ("Atkinson") in view of Matias et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,681,017 ("Matias") and Klein et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,872,850 ("Klein"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Examiner asserts that "Klein teaches retrieving a preferences key from said server based on said authentication (Klien, column 32 lines 30-46) and decrypting a preferences file using said preferences key" (page 3, paragraph 1). Klein generally discloses a system for providing marketing information to third-party providers. Specifically, the Klein system enables users to determine what personal information may be provided by a central server to various nodes. Users may interact with the Klein system to input personal information which may be used to classify users into demographics for marketing purposes. Klein further discloses that users may define how they want their personal information to be distributed and specify who may have access to it. According to Klein, such information is stored by a central server as "preference data."

The Klein system secures personal information and preference data using public and private keys. When personal information is provided by the central server to a requesting node, the information is accompanied by an encryption key which can be used by the requesting node to decrypt the data. Thus, if personal information is obtained through an unauthorized channel, the acquirer will not have the means to decrypt the information. The preference data as disclosed by Klein contains information controlling access to a user's personal information. This is consistent with a number of prior art systems which allow, for example, users to configure email

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filters to define who they wish to receive email from. However, the preference data of Klein does not enable a user to specify how his personal information is to be signed as being authentic. As such, neither Atkinson, Matias, Klein, nor any combination thereof, disclose or suggest at least, "decrypting a preferences file having a authenticity stamp instruction using the preferences key, wherein the authenticity stamp is at least one of text, graphic, and audio," as similarly recited by independent claims 1, 8, and 14.

Claims 2-3, 9, 15-16 and 20 variously depend from independent claims 1, 8 and 14, and are differentiated from the cited references for at least the same reasons as set forth above, as well as in view of their own respective features.

The Examiner next rejects dependent claims 4, 6, 10-11, 17 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Atkinson, Matias, and Klein and further in view of Wallent, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,366,912 ("Wallent"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Dependent claims 4, 6, 10-11, 17 and 23 variously depend from independent claims 1, 8 and 14, and are differentiated from the cited references for at least the same reasons as set forth above, as well as in view of their own respective features.

The Examiner next rejects dependent claims 5, 7, 12, and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Atkinson, Matias, Klein, and Wallent and further in view of Houser, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,606,609 ("Houser"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Applicants assert that dependent claims 5, 7, 12, and 18-19 variously depend from independent claims 1, 8 and 14, and are differentiated from the cited references for at least the same reasons as set forth above, as well as in view of their own respective features.

The Examiner next rejects claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Atkinson, Matias, and Klein and further in view of Asad, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,681,017 ("Asad"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicants assert that dependent claim 21 depends from independent claim 1, and is differentiated from the cited references for at least the same reasons as set forth above, as well as in view of its own respective features.

The Examiner next rejects claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Atkinson, Matias, and Klein and further in view of Walker, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,286,001 ("Walker"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicants assert that dependent

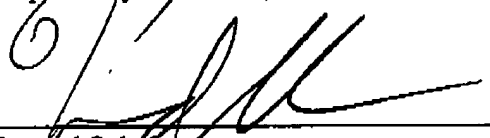
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claim 22 depends from independent claim 8, and is differentiated from the cited references for at least the same reasons as set forth above, as well as in view of its own respective features.

The Examiner next rejects claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Atkinson, Matias, and Klein and further in view of Kou, U.S. Patent No. 6,016,491 ("Kou"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicants assert that independent claim 24 is differentiated from the cited references for at least the same reasons as set forth above, as well as in view of its own respective features.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims properly set forth that which Applicants regard as their invention and are allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience, if that would help further prosecution of the subject Application. Applicants authorize and respectfully request that any fees due be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-2814.

Respectfully submitted,


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